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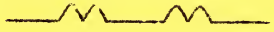
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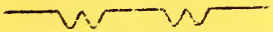
THIS BOOK PRESENTED BY

GLYNN HILL

HISTORY
of
THE KENLY BAPTIST CHURCH
1906 - 1956



Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration
Homecoming Day
October 14, 1956



Kenly, North Carolina

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1906 - 1956

Written and Compiled

by

Mrs. W. Carl Lewis

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Publishers: Glynn and Jean Hill

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HISTORY OF KENLY BAPTIST CHURCH

1906-1956

At the beginning of the year of 1906 there were 350 people living in the town of Kenly. At this time three churches had been organized, the Free Will Baptist, the Methodist, and the Presbyterian.

During the month of February a group of seven men and women met and decided to organize a Missionary Baptist Church. Through the help of Rev. J. W. Suttle, pastor of the Baptist Church in Smithfield and Rev. R. W. Harrell, the church was organized on February 23.

On November 9, 1906 the Kenly Church was admitted to the Johnston Baptist Association. At this time they reported Rev. R. W. Harrell pastor with a membership of seven.

The original record shows the seven charter members as following: Mrs. Essie Renfrow, Mrs. Ida Bailey, Miss Lillian Ayers, Miss Kate Darden, Miss Elizabeth Morris, Mr. B. W. Harris, and Mr. Fred Richardson. Each of the members were received by letters from their home churches.

The first clerk of the church was Mr. B. W. Harris; and the first deacons were: Mr. C. C. Teague, Mr. T. M. Allsbrook, and Mr. B. W. Harris. They were elected on July 28, 1907.

During the early period after the Church was organized the few members met in the Presbyterian Church building, and a resolution

of gratitude to the Presbyterians was later included in the church minutes.

On October 13, 1907, Rev. J.W. Nobles was called to succeed Rev. R. W. Harrell, the salary stated to be $100.00 per year. It was under the ministry of the Rev.Mr. Nobles that the original church building was erected.

The lot on which the building was erected was given by Mr. W. T. Bailey, a local merchant, a town leader, and husband of one of the charter members.

The Pastors having served the church are as follows: Rev. R. W. Harrell, 1906-1907; Rev. J. W. Nobles, 1907-1910; Rev. George H. Johnson, 1910-1911; Rev. J.M.Gibbs, 1913-1914; Rev. David E. Vipperman, 1915-1916; Rev. R.M. Von Miller, 1916-1918; Rev.C.E.Stevens, 1920-1921; Rev. J. S.Johnson, 1921-1922; Rev. O.A. Keller 1922-1923; Rev. N. H. Shepherd, 1923-1924; Rev. W. T. Evans, 1924-1926; Rev.E. W. Mason, 1928-1929; Rev. Jesse McCarter, 1930-1932; Rev. Arthur R. Creech, 1933-1934; Rev. Theo B. Davis 1935-1941; Rev. Tom Freeman, 1942-1947; Rev. J. L. Jones, 1948-1952, and Rev. Glynn T. Hill from 1953 to the present time.

From 1906 until 1911, the membership of the Church grew from seven to sixty. It was not easy for the few members to carry on, but through the financial aid received from the State Board to help pay the pastor's salary, they managed. In 1926 this help was discontinued and since then the church has gone forward on its own resources.

In 1911 during the time Rev. J. H.Johnson as pastor, an additional Sunday School room as built. This was done with the help of Mr. . O. Martin, a loyal member, who gave his ime and money. Mr. Martin also purchased and nstalled the bell that we now have. He later oved to Jamesville, N. C. and has since died.

Another great step forward was in 1926 uring the pastorate of Rev. W.T.Evans. At his time a parsonage was built at the cost f $3,500.00. A great deal of credit for uilding the parsonage should go to Bro. J. . Beaty of Smithfield, who was for a long ime a member of the Executive Committee of he Johnston Association. It was through his fforts that the Association contributed to he building of the parsonage. Later on our hurch shared in a fund for the parsonage left by him in his will to the Johnston Association.

There were periods between 1928 and 1935 hat the church had no pastor. During these ars there was much discussion of closing e church since the members had decreased d funds were short. Due to the faithfulness a few old members and their trust in God, e church remained. Pastors were called,the ayers were answered, interest revived, and e church began to grow.

In 1942 Rev. Tom Freeman came as our pas- r. At this time we entered a church field th the Thanksgiving and Pine Level churches. r church had services only on the second nday each month.

During the years Mr. Freeman served the Church plans were adopted to begin remodeling and to build seven new classrooms. On the last Sunday of Mr. Freeman's pastorate the first Homecoming celebration was observed. This day was the inspirational point which led the members to begin construction on the new building.

The Church membership had increased by this time to 103 members. It was the personality of this young Seminary-trained pastor, around which the members of the church rallied to begin the greatest period of growth and enthusiasm since the early years of the Church.

On February 1, 1948 Rev. J. L. Jones became our pastor. The Pine Level and Kenly Churches constituted a field, with the Pine Level Church having services three Sundays a month and the Kenly Church continuing the second Sunday Service.

As previously planned the old church building was moved on the same lot in order to build the additional Sunday School rooms. Work on the building was started, and was completed in 1949 except for the brick veneering. By December 1952 when Mr. Jones became pastor of another church, all the buildings were completed except the laying of the tile on the front porch. A debt of only $3,500.00 remained on the building.

This fact alone is amazing when one considers that some $25,000.00 went into completing the building as it now stands.

Rev. Glynn Hill, a student at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, became our pastor in April, 1953. In May, he and his wife Jean moved to our parsonage. Immediately Jean began taking an active part in the choir and other church activities. For three years Rev. Hill served as a pastor in every respect while continuing his studies. He graduated from Southeastern in April, 1956.

When Mr. Hill came our Church became a "half-time" church, with services on second and fourth Sundays of each month. It constituted a field with the Hales' Chapel Baptist Church, Route 1, Zebulon.

During the last three years our church has been formally dedicated, a nursery and four new classes have been formed, and the debt on the building has been retired.

Words can not express the feeling in the hearts of the members of our Church for our pastor. We can only say this: he has been a great blessing to our church and to our community.

The Sunday School

Our Sunday School was organized in 1907. The first superintendent was Mr. R.O. Martin who served from 1907-1914. Following Mr.Martin were: Mr. A. J. Broughton, 1914-1938; Mr. L. H. Johnson, 1938-1950; Mr. W. Carl Lewis, 1950-1953, and Mr. Percy Starling from 1953 to the present time. Our present enrollment is 93 and we have 10 classes.

One of the strong leaders in Sunday School work through the years has been Mrs. J. A. Hodge. We wish to pay tribute to her for having taught continuously since 1907, with the exception of a few periods of time when she was ill.

Woman's Missionary Union

The Woman's Missionary Union of the Kenly Baptist Church was organized in the spring of 1906 with Mrs. Richard Renfrow as president and an enrollment of nine members.

The society was discontinued from 1919 until 1921 when it was reorganized with Mrs. J. E. Jones as president and seventeen members.

Since that date the Society has functioned regularly. The following have served as presidents: Mrs. Richard Renfrow, Mrs. J. A. Hodge, Mrs. Fred Richardson, Mrs. Henry Huff, Mrs. J. E. Jones, Mrs. A.B. Ballance, Mrs. J.

. Woolard, Mrs. W. T. Evans, Mrs. E. L. theridge, Mrs. R. S. Atkinson, Mrs. L. H. ohnson, Mrs. J. B. Alford, Mrs. George Pope, rs. Percy Starling, and Mrs. Ray Boyette. ur president now is Mrs. E. L. Etheridge.

We meet once a month and have an enroll- ent of twenty-six. We have sponsored during he years the Sunbeams, Girls' Auxiliary, and oung Women's Auxiliary. In Addition to our onthly meetings we have two weeks of prayer ach year, one for Home and one for Foreign issions.

We clothe a young girl at the Kennedy ome and participate in other church and ommunity activities as time and enery per- it. It has been this vision of World needs hich has helped our ladies to keep alive the ission Spirit in our church.

During the past fifty years many indivi- uals have made up the personality of the Kenly hurch. Members have come and gone, and deeds ave been accomplished in the name of the. ord.

In addition to the contributions which resent members and former members have made n communities around the world, our church as sent forth two ministers. One, Albert odge, was tragically killed in the midst of is preparation. The other, Ray Hodge, is ow an associate of the Extension Department f our Southern Baptist Seminaries.

The Church personality, we believe, ha become a vital part of our community persona- ity. There is much which needs to be done i Kenly and other places of the world. We be- lieve that this look at the toil, struggles, and accomplishments in our past history will serve as inspiration for our present and future members as they seek God's leadership in meeting these needs around the world.

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History of the Kenly Baptist church, 1906-1956

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